

BACTERIAL BLIGHT
PSEUDOMONAS SYRINGAE VAN. HALL
A. P. Martinez

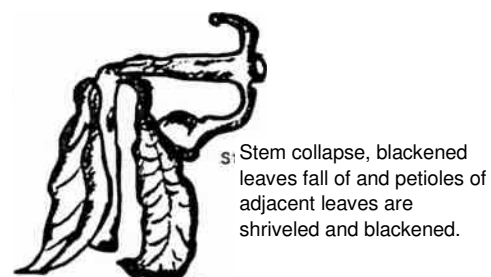
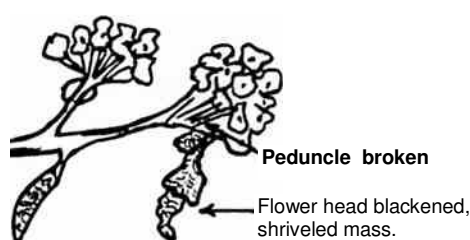
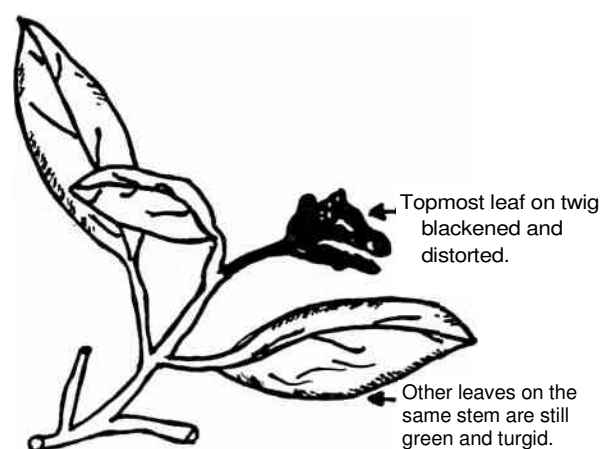
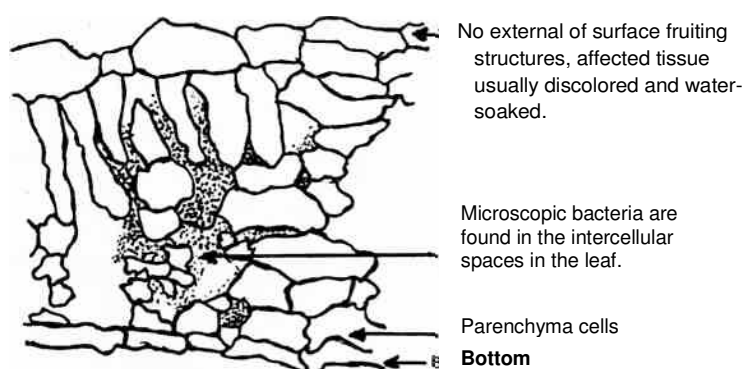
The purpose of this circular is to present a typical bacterial disease.

The first symptoms of bacterial blight are brown water-soaked spots on the leaves and inter-nodes of young shoots in early spring. These spots blacken and increase rapidly in size in rainy weather. Immature leaves discolor rapidly and completely while the spots on older leaves enlarge slowly and by coalescing kill large areas of the leaf. The stem bends at the point of infection and the parts above wither. Lesions also occur on peduncles and pedicels of the flower clusters and the flower buds may be blasted.

The bacteria primarily attack the parenchyma cells spreading through the intercellular spaces of the cortex, blackening and killing the cells and frequently forming cavities. Infection may spread through the vascular system causing wilting of the upper leaves and sunken areas on the stem along the line of internal infection.

CONTROL: Prune or rogue out infected plant parts. On lilacs spray with a fixed copper or agrimycin.

HOSTS: The disease known by many names—black pit, citrus blast, blight—has been reported on many unrelated plants in the United States. Some of these host plants are: apple, plum, peach, cherry, pear, almond, avocado, citrus fruits, lilacs, flowering stock, rose, beans and cowpeas.



Ref. Westcott - Plant Disease Handbook.
Creager & Matherly - Phytopath 52: 103-110. 1962.
Elliot - Bacterial Plant Pathogens.